

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would conclude by observing that PAUL WELLSTONE was more than a Senator, more than an advocate for ideas, for issues, for causes. PAUL WELLSTONE was himself a movement, a movement for justice. I pray that his movement will continue in the spirit in which he lived his life of public service.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened by the tragic death of Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, his family members and staff, and I have prayed for the families of all the victims of this accident.

I rise today to support this resolution honoring the short but powerful life of PAUL WELLSTONE, the people's senator. I will miss PAUL, a good friend, a good person, and an invaluable and courageous colleague.

PAUL and I joined together on many occasions to fight for legislation to help those who have so little power in our society. Most recently, we co-authored a bill to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment to juvenile offenders. PAUL understood that many young offenders suffer from problems that are treatable and that contribute to their troubles, but for which they rarely receive effective treatment. It was not a bill written for the powerful or wealthy interests. It was not a bill written because it would be popular in the press.

It was just one of the many examples of PAUL's genuine desire to help people and demonstrated his understanding of his role as a representative in government.

PAUL WELLSTONE fought for working families, for better schools, and for a cleaner environment. He was a dedicated public servant who was passionate about his work and who was proud to fight for progressive causes. His loss is a loss for all of America and for all those Americans who so desperately need champions on their side. PAUL was a man of principle, courage, and great intellect. Sadly, he will not be easily replaced in our society and we will miss him deeply.

Mr. EVANS. I rise to recognize the accomplishments of my good friend, the late Senator PAUL WELLSTONE of Minnesota. Many have come before me to praise the character and actions of this faithful public servant who left us all too early last month. Many have lauded his commitment to the underdog, to those who lacked a voice, to the "little guy." I speak of his commitment and passion for veterans.

During his 12 years on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, PAUL was an active and committed member whose heart-felt concern about veteran's issues was often unmatched. PAUL has been remembered for his courageous stands, in both Bush Administrations, against sanctioning military action in Iraq. At one time, PAUL was criticized for making his views on this known at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Even though the gesture may have been misinterpreted, to me, it was symbolic of his constant realization that

war has consequences. We must be ever-cognizant of the often painful realities of putting our sons and daughters in harm's way and resort to force only as the last recourse.

But PAUL also consistently demonstrated that he believed part of the cost of war was being ready to assist those that were willing to put themselves on the line for their country. For his advocacy he was honored by numerous veterans' service organizations, including Vietnam Veterans of America, the Minnesota chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars.

One of the things that drew people to PAUL was his willingness to listen. I was impressed that the Senator rarely missed an opportunity to hear directly from veterans at their annual joint legislative hearings held here in the House. He would often bring the veterans to their feet exhorting them to fight for their rights.

Last year, PAUL introduced the Senate companion to my bill, Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, S. 739. This bill addressed so many of the constituencies PAUL held dear—and men and women without homes, individuals with mental illness, and veterans. I am proud to say, with PAUL's help in the Senate, we enacted Public Law 107-95.

PAUL also got things done for "atomic" veterans. During his tenure, Congress identified many new diseases which were presumed connected to veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation.

Veterans could count on PAUL as an ally in the budget process—he consistently put forth initiatives to increase funding for veterans health care. I believe my friend PAUL would agree that we owe our veterans a great debt and he was already prepared to pay the bill.

PAUL and I also shared a chronic disability as a common foe. He dealt with his MS without complaint pushing himself to act when lesser men might have faltered. That is part of the personal courage he demonstrated on behalf of himself, his ideals, and the constituents who entrusted him with an office he used to its best advantage every day.

PAUL, you were a cherished friend to me, to veterans of this great Nation, and to every American who needed a voice, I will miss you.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, the Congress, the State of Minnesota, and the nation tragically lost a great public servant. The sudden death of Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, his wife Sheila, daughter Marcia, three staffers, and two pilots in an airplane crash last month, saddens us all. I extend my heartfelt sympathy and support to their family and friends as they deal with this tremendous loss.

This is also a devastating loss for our nation. As Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I was fortunate to work with Senator WELLSTONE on many issues, such as the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Personally, I worked closely with him on many veterans benefits issues.

PAUL had a true passion for people, civil service, and veterans that is matched by very few. PAUL's commitment to helping people, his warm sense of humor, and positive attitude made him both a great Senator and an excellent friend. His leadership and friendship will be dearly missed by me, members of the CHC and all members of the U.S. Congress. Our

thoughts and prayers remain with PAUL's family and loved ones, and the family and friends of his staff and the pilots.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1827

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546, BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. HUNTER submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 107-772)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4546), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003".